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68TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

} REPORT
No. 996

BRIDGE ACROSS THE COLUMBIA RIVER BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND OREGON

FEBRUARY 3 (calendar day, FEBRUARY 4), 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JONES of Washington, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 4045]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4045) granting the consent of Congress to W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook to construct a bridge across the Columbia River, between Longview, Wash., and Rainier, Oreg., have considered the same and report thereon with amendments, and as so amended recommend that the bill do pass.

The bill thus amended has the approval of the Departments of War and Agriculture, as will appear by the annexed communications, the amendments referred to therein having been incorporated in the bill as reported.

Page 2, after line 4, insert a new paragraph to read as follows:

SEC. 2. The States of Washington and Oregon, or either of them, or any political subdivision or subdivisions thereof, within or adjoining which said bridge is located, may at any time acquire all right, title, and interest in said bridge and the approaches thereto constructed under the authority of this act, for the purpose of maintaining and operating such bridge as a free bridge, by the payment to the owners of the reasonable value thereof, not to exceed in any event the construction cost thereof: *Provided*, That the said State of States or political subdivision or divisions may operate such bridge as a toll bridge not to exceed five years from date of acquisition thereof.

Page 2, line 5, strike out "2" and insert "3" in lieu thereof.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, January 31, 1925.

Hon. WESLEY L. JONES,
Chairman Committee on Commerce,
United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR JONES: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 24 transmitting a copy of the bill S. 4045 with the request that the committee be furnished with such suggestions touching the merits of the bill and the propriety of its passage as the department might deem appropriate.

This bill proposes to grant the consent of Congress to W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook, and their successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Columbia River, between Longview, Wash., and Rainier, Oreg. The proposed structure will not form a part of the Federal-aid highway system. The location of this bridge is such, however, that the approaches may be extended to connect with the Federal-aid system in both Washington and Oregon. It is suggested for the consideration of your committee, therefore, that provision might well be made to authorize the State Highway Departments of Oregon and Washington to approve the plans and specifications therefor with a further authorization permitting the States to acquire all rights, title, and interest in the bridge and the approaches thereto upon the payment of the reasonable value thereof. The department has no other suggestion to offer concerning this bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD M. GORE, *Secretary.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, January 28, 1925.

Respectfully returned to the chairman Committee on Commerce, United States Senate.

So far as the interests committed to this department are concerned, I know of no objection to the favorable consideration of the accompanying bill (S. 4045, 68th Cong., 2d sess.) granting the consent of Congress to W. D. Comer and Wesley Vandercook to construct a bridge across the Columbia River between Longview, Wash., and Rainier, Oreg.

As the navigable portions of the Columbia River do not lie within the limits of a single State, the consent of Congress is required under section 9 of the river and harbor act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151), for the construction of a bridge thereover.

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*